

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. No claims have been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have been added. Support for new claims 3 and 4 may be found, *inter alia*, at p. 6, line 30 to p. 7, line 4. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 1-4 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested for at least the reasons that follow.

Applicants appreciate acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 21, 2003.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-18500 (hereinafter "Sho"). Alternatively, claims 1 and 2 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sho in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,892,036 (hereinafter "Lange").

Claim 1 recites, among other things, "a folding machine with a collect run mode, having a cutting cylinder...and a jaw cylinder next to the folding cylinder provided with a jaw mechanism for holding and supporting a central part of the cut paper made to project by a folding blade." The rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because the references, either taken separately or together, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the elements of claim 1. For example, Sho and Lange fail to disclose, teach or suggest "jaw mechanisms of the jaw cylinder [being] provided along the direction of the peripheral surface of the jaw cylinder and operate at an equal frequency," as recited by claim 1. On the contrary, Sho discloses a folding machine with pins and folding blades with jaw mechanisms that cause "paperless strikes." Such "paperless strikes" are caused when the jaw mechanism is closed, but there is no paper and these strikes occur in Sho at every other folding blade that is retracted and held back from the surface of the cylinder.

Lange does not cure the deficiencies of Sho. Lange merely discloses a combination collection and folding cylinder system which does not require “engagement, disengagement and reengagement at a shift position of a clutch” when switching over between the different modes of operation of the cylinder. (Lange at Col. 1, line 51-53). Lange does not disclose, teach or suggest “jaw mechanisms of the jaw cylinder [being] provided along the direction of the peripheral surface of the jaw cylinder and operate at an equal frequency,” as recited by claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in this dependent claim.

New claims 3 and 4 are allowable at least because Sho and Lange, either taken separately or together, fail to disclose, teach or suggest “wherein the folding machine is configured to prevent a paperless strike of a jaw mechanism of a jaw cylinder during a collect run mode.” Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 3 and 4.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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